

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR EMPHASIZES INTERNATIONAL ROLE IN
NEW YEAR STATEMENTS

REF: BONN A-578, DECEMBER 16, 1975

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BEGIN SUMMARY: IN TWO YEAR-END NATION-WIDE TELEVISION ADDRESSES THIS WEEK, FRG CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT CONCENTRATED ATTENTION ON SUCH RECENT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AS THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT, HIS FALL VISIT TO CHINA, AND THE RAMBOUILLET SUMMIT. THE CHANCELLOR ADMITTED THAT ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ISSUES REMAIN THE CORE OF DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. HE DISPLAYED A RELAXED AND POSITIVE, BUT NOT OVERCONFIDENT MOOD. HIS PERFORMANCE SUGGESTED THAT SCHMIDT'S FOREIGN POLICY AND PERSONALITY WILL MOST LIKELY BE EMPHASIZED BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN THEIR CAMPAIGN FOR THE OCTOBER BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A DECEMBER 29 REFLECTION ON THE PAST YEAR, SCHMIDT DEVOTED NEARLY THREE-QUARTERS OF HIS TEXT TO INTERNATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 1975 IN WHICH HE HAD FIGURED PROMINENTLY. HE OPENED WITH COMMENTS ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO CHINA, AND REMARKED THAT HE HAD SINCE HIS RETURN THOUGHT MANY TIMES OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH MAO TSE TUNG. "THE ENMITY BETWEEN BOTH GREAT COMMUNIST WORLD POWERS IS A FASCINATING ONE," HE DECLARED. SCHMIDT STATED THAT THE FRG HAD NATURALLY TO SIDESTEP MOSCOW AND PEKING ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN WEST GERMAN SUPPORT IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.

2. SCHMIDT FOUND THE CSCE AGREEMENT AT HELSINKI TO BE "MUCH MORE IMPORTANT" THAN HIS CHINA VISIT. ACCORDING TO THE CHANCELLOR, THE MOST IMPORTANT CSCE RESULT WAS THAT ALL COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE SOVIET UNION, ACCEPTED THAT THE USA AND CANADA QUOTE BELONG TO EUROPE UNQUOTE. IT WOULD TAKE SEVERAL YEARS, SCHMIDT NOTED, BEFORE THE HUMANITARIAN DECLARATIONS MADE AT HELSINKI WOULD BE REALIZED.

3. SCHMIDT ALSO CITED HIS PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS AT HELSINKI WITH POLISH COMMUNIST LEADER GIerek AND WITH GDR COMMUNIST LEADER HONECKER. HE DECLARED THAT STATESMEN IN BOTH EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE HAD PRAISED THE UNDERSTANDING HE HAD REACHED WITH GIerek CONCERNING THE LATEST FRG-POLISH AGREEMENTS. THE DISCUSSIONS WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HONECKER LIKEWISE LED TO INNER-GERMAN AGREEMENTS, AND IN THIS CONNECTION SCHMIDT DECLARED THAT, ALL IN ALL, 1975 WAS A GOOD YEAR FOR DEMONSTRATING THE COHESIVE STRENGTH BETWEEN BERLIN AND THE FRG.

4. SCHMIDT ALSO FOCUSED ON PROBLEMS GENERATED IN THE FRG BY INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM DURING THE PAST YEAR, PARTICULARLY THE LORENZ KIDNAPING AND THE OCCUPATION

OF THE FRG EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM. HE CALLED ON ALL GOVERNMENTS TO STAND HARD AGAINST TERRORIST THREATS SO THAT THIS "PESTILENCE" DOES NOT SPREAD.

5. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ISSUES REMAIN THE HEART OF DOMESTIC CONCERNS, ACCORDING TO THE CHANCELLOR, BUT HE DID NOT ELABORATE MUCH ON THE INTERNAL SCENE. INSTEAD, HE NOTED THAT THE FORECAST ON THE FRG AND ON THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL NATIONS REPRESENTED AT THE RAMBOUILLET SUMMIT WAS, "PERHAPS WITH ONE OR TWO EXCEPTIONS" MILDLY OPTIMISTIC FOR THE COMING YEAR. THE CHANCELLOR STATED BRIEFLY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD DONE WELL IN ITS BATTLE TO OVERCOME INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

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6. IN A FINAL POLITICAL ASIDE SCHMIDT STRESSED THE
UNITY DEMONSTRATED BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AT THEIR
NOVEMBER NATIONAL CONVENTION.

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7. OPPOSITION CHANCELLOR-CANDIDATE KOHL, ON THE OTHER
HAND, FOLLOWED THE CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT WITH SEPARATE
REMARKS THAT PLAYED UP FRG DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DIFFI-
CULTIES. KOHL BLAMED THE PRESENT UNEMPLOYMENT AND OTHER
ILLS OF THE WEST GERMAN ECONOMY ON FRG POLICIES OF THE
PAST YEARS AND CALLED ON THE ELECTORATE TO CHANGE THE
BONN LEADERSHIP IN THE OCTOBER NATIONAL ELECTION.

8. IN HIS NEW YEARS EVE MESSAGE TO THE NATION,
SCHMIDT REPEATED SEVERAL OF THE THEMES RAISED IN THE
DECEMBER 29 ADDRESS. THE CHANCELLOR PROJECTED LOW-
KEYED OPTIMISM ABOUT THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND PREDICTED THAT UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE
FRG WOULD DECLINE IN 1976, ALTHOUGH FULL EMPLOYMENT
WOULD NOT BE REALIZED. (COMMENT: IN HIS 1974 NEW
YEAR'S MESSAGE SCHMIDT HAD BEEN MUCH MORE CONFIDENT IN
PREDICTING THAT THE ECONOMY WOULD BE IN BETTER SHAPE
TWELVE MONTHS LATER. THE BONN GOVERNMENT AT THAT TIME
RAN FULL PAGE ADVERTISEMENTS IN SEVERAL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS
MAINTAINING THAT BY EARLY IN THE SUMMER OF 1975 AN
UPTURN OR "AUF SCHWUNG" WOULD OCCUR IN THE ECONOMY. THERE
WERE NO SUCH ADVERTISEMENTS THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, AS
REPORTED REPAIR, ECONOMIC INDICATORS SUGGEST THAT THE
LOW POINT WAS REACHED IN JULY AND THAT AN UPTURN OF
UNCERTAIN STRENGTH AND DURABILITY HAS BEEN UNDERWAY EVER
SINCE. END OF COMMENT.)

9. SCHMIDT MAINTAINED THAT THE SHARED INTERNATIONAL
CONFIDENCE ABOUT THE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK WAS BASED ON
THE FACT THAT IT PROVED POSSIBLE IN 1975 SUCCESSFULLY
TO ORIENT THE MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES TO
THE COMMON AIM OF INSURING EMPLOYMENT. SCHMIDT ALSO

NOTED THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAD BEEN TWICE ENDANGERED IN 1975 BUT HAD EMERGED UNSCATHED. (COMMENT: WHILE HE DID NOT SPECIFY, THIS PRESUMABLY REFERRED TO THE UK REFERENDUM AND THE UK DEMAND FOR A SEPARATE SEAT AT THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONFERENCE. END OF COMMENT.)

10. THE CHANCELLOR AGAIN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CSCE AGREEMENT, NOTING THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRINCIPLE
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PLES WOULD TAKE TIME. IN REFERENCE TO RECENT CONTROVERSIAL GDR ACTIONS SCHMIDT DECLARED QUOTE THE EXPULSION OF JOURNALISTS IS A VIOLATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES JUST AS SEPARATION OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN IS A VIOLATION OF GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS. UNQUOTE. SCHMIDT CAUTIONED THAT ONE SHOULD NOT REACT TO SUCH VIOLATIONS BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS BY ALSO VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE BASIC LAW.

11. IN HIS NEW YEAR'S EVE MESSAGE, SCHMIDT ALSO ADDRESSED BOTH EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL SECURITY. HE PLEDGED THE FRG WOULD SUPPORT THE BUNDESWEHR AND THE NATO ALLIANCE DURING 1976, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME IT WOULD PUSH FOR MUTUAL EAST-WEST ARMS REDUCTION. HE REITERATED THE FRG'S DETERMINATION NOT TO BE BLACK-MAILED BY TERRORIST ACTIVITY.

12. FINALLY, THE CHANCELLOR URGED THAT IN THE 1976 ELECTION YEAR POLITICAL DECISIONS CONTINUE TO BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF WHAT IS NECESSARY FOR THE COUNTRY RATHER THAN OUT OF PARTISAN CONSIDERATIONS. (HELMUT KOHL IN A SEPARATE NEW YEARS EVE MESSAGE REPEATED THIS THEME.)

COMMENT: THE DECEMBER 29 AND DECEMBER 31 PRESENTATIONS WERE PRE-TAPED BEFORE THE CHANCELLOR DEPARTED FOR GREECE, BUT NONETHELESS OFFER SOME INDICATION OF THE PRESENT PRE-ELECTION STRATEGY OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. SCHMIDT AND HIS PARTY ARE EMPHASIZING THE POSITIVE INTERNATIONAL ROLE WHICH THE FRG, OFTEN PERSONIFIED BY THE CHANCELLOR, IS PLAYING, PARTICULARLY IN THE ECONOMIC SCENE. THE SPD AT THE SAME TIME WILL ATTEMPT TO LIMIT FOCUS ON THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY WHICH STILL SUFFERS FROM HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND A SPUTTERING IF NASCENT ECONOMIC UPTURN. (THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT SEPARATELY ON AN END OF YEAR ECONOMIC STATEMENT BY SCHMIDT WHICH APPEARED IN THE ECONOMIC JOURNAL "HANDELSBLATT.")

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13. THE CHANCELLOR'S IMAGE IN THE FRG AS AN INTER-NATIONAL LEADER MAY BE A GENUINE SPD ASSET SINCE IT APPEARS TO BE AT AN ALL TIME HIGH, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY

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THE PUBLICITY ACCORDED HERE TO HIS SELECTION THIS WEEK
BY THE "LONDON FINANCIAL
TIMES" AS "MAN OF THE YEAR."

14. SCHMIDT'S TWO NATIONWIDE ADDRESSES WERE DELIVERED
IN A RELAXED, FIRESIDE CHAT MANNER. THEY WERE PRESENTED
TO SHOW A CONFIDENT LEADER, ONE AWARE OF
PROBLEMS BESETTING HIS COUNTRY AND THE WESTERN WORLD AND
YET SURE THAT HIS APPROACH TO SOLUTION IS THE RIGHT ONE.
THE SPD WILL UNDOUBTEDLY UTILIZE THIS SPEAKING ABILITY
AND INTERNATIONAL IMAGE OF THE CHANCELLOR TO THE UTMOST
IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE
SPD EFFORT TO UPSTAGE THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC
OPPOSITION BY USING THE CHANCELLOR WILL OCCUR JANUARY 5
WHEN SCHMIDT WILL AGAIN RETURN TO NATIONWIDE TELEVISION
WITH AN ADDRESS TIED TO THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF KONRAD ADENAUER'S BIRTHDAY, ALTHOUGH SOME
VOTERS MAY RECALL THAT ADENAUER WAS NOT A SUPPORTER OF
THE SPD.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 02 JAN 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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